



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 26 March 2021

Return to School After the Easter Break

On Tuesday this week, the First Minister announced that all pupils will be returning to school after the Easter break, as planned. To enable this:

- the mitigation measure of 2m physical distancing will be removed;
- sanitising measures will continue;
- rooms will be well-ventilated;
- everyone in the school community will wear a face covering in communal areas and in classrooms (unless medically exempt).

Updated and revised guidance on reducing the COVID-19 risk in schools was issued by the Scottish Government on Wednesday this week. You can read the guidance document by following this link: [Coronavirus: reducing risks in schools guidance.](#)

Staffing Update

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hudson who has taught in the English department at NBHS since 2001. Mrs Hudson will be a big loss to the school as she has contributed so much in her time here. As a class teacher, she has supported hundreds of pupils in their English studies over the years and she has often willingly given up her own time to work with individual pupils when they needed a bit of extra help. In addition, Mrs Hudson has shared her passion for the environment and sustainability with pupils, even encouraging one of her classes to write, perform and film a song for the Scottish Seabird Centre. We wish Mrs Hudson success and fulfilment with the new challenge in her teaching career.

Another person leaving us next week is Mr Nelms, who has been on part-time supply in the maths department since August 2019. Mr Nelms has been a huge asset, not just to the maths team but to the whole school. We wish him well as he moves on to another school in our authority.

National Qualification Courses – Assessment Calendar for Alternative Certification Model

Today, Senior Phase pupils are being issued with the assessment calendar for next term, together with details of assessments in every subject, at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels, as appropriate. Once pupils have received the calendar through their Edubuzz email, it is vital that they take time to go through it in detail, noting every assessment that is relevant to their courses. Before the Easter break, Mr McCallum will be sending Senior Phase pupils, and parents and carers, a video presentation with further information on the Alternative Certification assessments and which should answer any queries pupils might have. Pupils who are being presented for National 3 and National 4 courses will receive information next week about the units that are required for the overall course award – National 3 and National 4 National Qualifications are different in that there is no final ‘grade’ awarded, but pupils do have to pass all the unit assessments to be awarded the overall course.

Extra Inservice Days in Summer Term

The cancellation of SQA exams and the introduction of the Alternative Certification Model for 2021 has inevitably brought with it an increase in workload for secondary school teachers. In a normal year, the SQA sets and marks exams; this year, however, schools have to plan for the alternative assessments and teachers have to mark the assessments, and moderate pupils' work at school and authority level. Acknowledging this increase in workload, the Scottish Government is allowing local authorities to request two additional assessment support days for secondary schools. The purpose of these days is to:

- support the quality assurance of SQA National Qualification assessment processes (work that cannot be done when teachers have class commitments with pupils).
- facilitate collaboration between teachers to support this work.

The two days will be in the summer term, before provisional results have to be submitted to the SQA. If the two days designated for East Lothian secondaries receive approval from the Scottish Government, schools will let pupils, parents and carers know the dates as soon as possible.

Leavers' Date, Session 2020 - 2021

Although the date for the change of timetable has still yet to be agreed, it was decided that, for those pupils leaving school this session, their official last day of school will be Friday 4th June. We are looking at creative and innovative ways to celebrate with our S4 – 6 leavers and mark their time at North Berwick High School. As always, we will be very sad to see our young people leave, but we know that they will go on to do wonderful things in the big wide world!

Help Choose North Berwick Youth Project's New LOGO!

North Berwick Youth Project have been working alongside some young people in the hub and at home over the last month or so discussing their new logo. They have been working with David and Judith Booth from Booth Creative who have created 5 options

The link for voting is below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B7WQ7N8>

School Expansion

Contractors have now started work on our expansion. At the front of the school, they will be running a tunnel through from the front of the school to the canteen courtyard, and the first part of this tunnel will be in place from Monday, requiring a tweak to our one-way system. This video explains this change, showing how pupils will go through the canteen instead of along the front corridor.

<https://youtu.be/xxhYTqfF4S4>

Courtyard Garden

As part of the school expansion work, the courtyard garden adjacent to the Dining Hall has to be cleared. There were some beautiful plants in the garden and we didn't want them to be lost. Many thanks, then, to Dr McKendrick, who arranged for the plants to be lifted from the garden before the developers moved in. Thank you, too, to Mr Parker who managed to remove even the toughest of the plants. They have all now gone to good homes and we hope that they continue to grow and flourish for many years to come.

Impact of COVID-19 on Sport & Physical Activity from Active Schools

We are hoping to assess the impact of COVID-19 on young people's participation in sport and physical activity throughout East Lothian.

This information will help inform our planning on future opportunities through East Lothian Active Schools and our community club partners. Please help us to help you and other young people of East Lothian.

As a secondary school pupil, please answer the following questions with yourself in mind.

Please answer honestly, as this helps us build the best programme possible. Thank you.

No personal information will be recorded when completing the survey - it is anonymous.

Survey link: <https://forms.gle/xo5Ror4aZbR2gsFyZ>

Note: You may need to copy and paste the link into your web browser.

The survey closes to responses on Monday 12th April 2021.

Your Active Schools team really appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

Creative Cake Decorating

As their practice assessment for National 5 Practical Cake Craft, pupils have created amazing cakes based on their choice of a popular children's book. Here are just a few examples of their excellent work. We look forward to seeing more wonderful cake decorating skills on show in their final assessment!



HPV Immunisation

HPV immunisation forms are being issued to ALL S1 pupils next week whilst in school. We must apologise for requesting a quick return to NBHS by close on Wednesday 31st March for collection by NHS the following day if at all possible. Unfortunately ALL S2 forms are having to be re-issued to parents please return as soon as possible. S1 and S2 will receive their first vaccination on 14th or 15th June, with the S3 girls receiving their second vaccination, and any catch up immunisations for girls only in S4, S5 and S6.

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

Mobile: 07887 831454

Twitter: MickBurns2

Service Support Administrator MA – Scottish Government

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/19/modern-apprenticeship-vacancies-scottish-government/>

Impact Arts for 14 to 19 year olds

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/11/impact-arts-march-events/>

Careers in Investment presentations from Future Asset

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/09/future-asset-careers-insight-videos/>

M & G Modern Apprenticeships:

Current Modern Apprenticeships with M&G

Includes:

Business Analyst, Software Tester, Client Experience, Software Engineer

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/09/modern-apprenticeships-with-mg/>

NHS Careers - Healthcare scientists

To celebrate Healthcare Science Week 2021, we're talking to healthcare scientists across NHSScotland. Healthcare scientists are vital to the NHS, assisting with 80% of all clinical diagnoses.

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/10/nhs-careers-healthcare-scientists/>

Graham – Trainee Quantity Surveyor (Building)

[HTTPS://WWW.EDUBUZZ.ORG/CAREERS/2021/03/09/GRAHAM-TRAINEE-QUANTITY-SURVEYOR-BUILDING/](https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/09/graham-trainee-quantity-surveyor-building/)

Edinburgh College courses are now taking applications

I have delivered a preparation for college talk on 20 January and you can view this [here](#)

I have posted several vacancies recently at [edubuzz.org/careers](https://www.edubuzz.org/careers) so please visit if you are considering employment, apprenticeships or training.

Scotland's Rural College is still accepting applications:

<https://www1.sruc.ac.uk/>

Another useful site if you are looking for local vacancies is [edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies](https://www.edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies) as well as www.apprenticeship.scot

We have put together a short presentation in The Apprenticeship Family here that you may find useful, particularly at subject choice time.

St James Quarter Recruitment Event

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/02/st-james-quarter-recruitment-event/>

Law virtual work experience opportunity

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/02/25/s4-6-law-work-experience/>

S4 Medic Insight event

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/03/medic-insight-event/>

Richardson & Starling Apprenticeship Programme 2021

Joiners | Technicians | Plasterers

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/02/23/richardson-starling-apprenticeship-programme-2021/>

St James's Place Wealth Management

4-day Virtual Work Experience programme

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/19/st-jamess-place-wealth-management/>

Neurotheatre 2021 - ONLINE Simulated Brain Surgery!

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/19/neurotheatre-2021-online-simulated-brain-surgery/>

Scottish Seabird Centre - Marine Careers

Ever wondered what sort of jobs there are that involve working with the ocean?

The good news is there is a huge variety of work out there for all types of people from all sorts of different backgrounds.

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/24/scottish-seabird-centre-marine-careers/>

COVID-19 Positive Cases

We would appreciate it if you would inform the local authority if your child tests positive for COVID-19. Please email the details to covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk. If you have no access to email then please call East Lothian Council on 01875 613 921. **Please do not send your child to school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms**; instead, please ensure that they self-isolate and book a test.

COVID-19 – Financial Issues

The following link provides information to parents and carers on the advice and support available for anyone experiencing financial hardship due to COVID.

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/30092/financial_support_during_covid-19

NBHS Communications

Just a reminder that if you wish to contact school you should email us at the address below, or contact your child's guidance teacher directly. This email inbox will be monitored every school day during the closure of the school building; it will also be checked occasionally over weekends. During the school day, there are not always staff available in the building to take phone calls so please email, or leave a phone message which will be picked up as soon as possible. Please note that should a member of school staff phone you, it will likely be from a withheld number.

communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1 April

School closes for Easter break

Tuesday 20 April

School reopens, with all pupils back in the school building

Wednesday 21 April

PTA meeting

Wednesday 28 April

Parent Council meeting